

A new species of *Cymatium* (*Ranularia*) from the Philippines

(Mollusca, Gastropoda, Ranellidae)

By Alex Arthur

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Cymatium (*Ranularia*) *parthi*, spec. nov. is described as a new species and is compared with *C. (Ranularia) pyrulum* (A. Adams & Reeve, 1850).

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Introduction

Several years ago, I was sent a rather unusual specimen of *Ranularia* collected in tangle nets off Mactan Island, Cebu, Philippines. At that time, my inclination was to regard the specimen as an aberrant form of the reasonably common *C. (Ranularia) pyrulum* (A. Adams & Reeve) of which I had seen many specimens from the Cebu area. More recently, a second specimen was sent to me for study by my friend Manfred Parth of Munich. Together, from a distance, we had already established that both of us possessed an unidentifiable shell with certain distinctive characteristics. Ultimately, a comparison of the two specimens was possible and confirmed that both specimens share morphological characteristics that differentiate them easily from other known species of the subgenus *Ranularia*. Hence, a new species, *Cymatium (Ranularia) parthi* is hereby proposed and is compared to its closest known relative *C. (Ranularia) pyrulum* (A. Adams & Reeve, 1850).

Cymatium (Ranularia) parthi, spec. nov.

Figs 1, 2

Holotype. 76×32 mm, from tangle nets off Mactan Island, Cebu, Philippines, II. 85. Deposited in Zoologische Staatssammlung München, Reg.-Nr. 1864. – Paratype. 51×24,5 mm, Mactran Island, Cebu., Philippines, in Coll. Parth, München.

Description

Species of Family Ranellidae, subfamily Cymatiinae, belonging to subgenus *Ranularia* Schumacher of genus *Cymatium* Röding.

Shell medium-sized for genus, consisting of 4 to 5 inflated post-nuclear whorls. Spire variable in height, body whorl large, siphonal canal long and strongly recurved. Spiral sculpture consisting of numerous fine and tightly spaced cordlets, on the later whorl, some becoming slightly stronger and sometimes fused to give the impression of occasional thicker cords. Several raised axial folds evident on later whorls and strongest on the dorsum of the body whorl where the folds take the form of



Fig. 1. *Cymatium parthi*, spec. nov. Dorsal view. Left. Paratype. Right. Holotype.



Fig. 2. *Cymatium parthi*, spec. nov. Ventral view. Left. Paratype. Right. Holotype.

extremely prominent raised knobs. A further one or two rows of smaller knobs appear further down the body whorl and have a rather pustulose appearance but, in between, the axial folds become virtually obsolete. Extremely fine axial threads present over the entire shell surface, but these are hardly visible without magnification. Two moderately raised varices present, including the terminal one, each preceded by a distinctive deep furrow or groove. Aperture large and ovoidal in outline with a porcellaneous whitish interior. The columellar callous extends from the shell body, flaring slightly, and is ornamented by few irregular folds, especially towards the base. Spiral sculpture of the body whorl also evident through the wall of the parietal callous, giving an impression of true teeth. Outer lip ornamented within by 6 to 7 reasonably pronounced double denticles. Both specimens available presently have a slightly immature outer lip and therefore are not heavily calloused. Protoconch incomplete in both specimens examined but would appear to be smooth and relatively broad for the genus. Neither operculum, periostracum or the soft parts of the animal were available for study.

Colouration overall ranging from white to a fleshy, pale brown colour. Aperture and varices white, but patches of a warm orange colour appear between some of the spiral cordons of the latter.

The new species is named in honour of my friend and avid Ranellidae specialist, Manfred Parth of Munich, who provided the holotype and shared the discovery of this new species with me.

As pointed out in the introduction, the new species most resembles *C. (Ranularia) pyrulum* (A. Adams & Reeve, 1850) in general appearance, however, there are several differentiating characters as listed below.

Protoconch in *C. pyrulum* much smaller and less broad at the base. Axial sculpture also evident, whereas the protoconch appears to be totally smooth in the new species.

Early whorls of *C. pyrulum* very cancellate in appearance and although the axial sculpture is far less prominent as the body whorl develops, the spiral sculpture is much more pronounced, consisting of several broad and flattened spiral cords, divided by thinner, regularly spaced threads on the body whorl. Generally, the pattern of spiral and axial sculpture in *C. pyrulum* much more regular.

Whorls less inflated in *C. pyrulum* and pronounced axial folds present over most of the body whorl.

In *C. pyrulum* the columellar callous extends further down the siphonal canal and is ornamented with several raised and closely set plicae.

Siphonal canal straighter and aligns approximately with the shell axis.

The unusual groove that appears before the thickened varices, present in both *C. pyrulum* and the new species, however, in the latter, the groove is deeper and narrower.

Colouration of *C. pyrulum* is always a warm orange or brown with some white markings, particularly on the varices, whereas the new species is white to flesh in hue.

References

- Adams, A. & L. A. Reeve 1850. Mollusca. In: A. Adams (ed.). The zoology of the voyage of H. M. S. Samarang, under the command of Captain Sir Edward Belcher. – London, Reeve & Benham: X + 87p., 24 pl.
- Beu, S. 1987. Taxonomy of gastropods of the families Ranellidae (= Cymatidae) and Bursidae. Part 2. Descriptions of 14 new modern Indo-West Pacific species and subspecies, with revisions of related taxa. – New Zealand J. Zool. 13: 273–355.